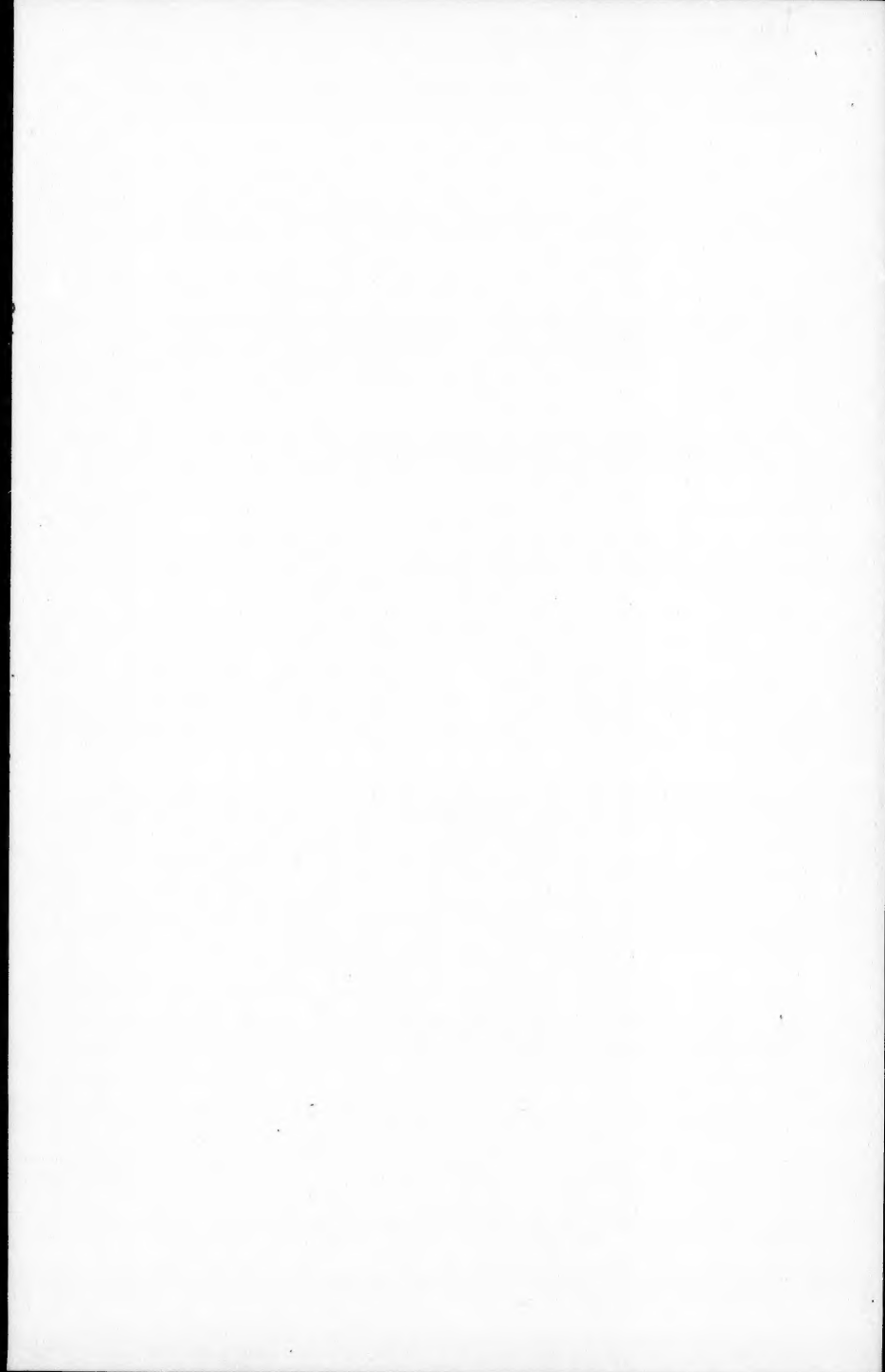




PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF

GEORGE HILLS, D.D.

BISHOP OF COLUMBIA.

TO THE

CLERGY AND LAITY

OF THE

DIOCESE OF COLUMBIA.

MARCH 26, 1863.

VICTORIA, V.I.,
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TO THE REVEREND THE CLERGY, AND THE LAITY
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND
IN COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER.

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND BRETHREN,

I have, on several occasions, laid before the Clergy and Laity, in conference assembled, various matters concerning the condition and progress of the Church.

Being about to visit England on business connected with our various religious objects, it may be convenient that I should set down on paper some points upon which I have spoken, and in which you feel an interest.

I cannot but here express, what I deeply feel, my thankfulness to Almighty God for the able and zealous cooperation of Clergy and Laity, throughout the diocese, in the difficult work of laying the foundation of our Zion amidst such diverse and uncertain elements as have composed, at the first, the society of our rising provinces.

We have had prejudices of various sorts to encounter; different nationalities to gather within the one fold of Christ; profanity intemperance and immorality to resist by the Word of the Lord; and, hardest of all, indifference and worldliness to move and overcome by the awakening warnings of the Gospel.

Though still in the day of small things, we may safely consider that our labor has not been in vain in the Lord. There is good reason to hope that the fruits of this labor consist not merely of external progress, though the latter must chiefly be our index of general improvement.

Since 1859 the number of the Clergy has reached eighteen, of whom three have returned to England—leaving now fifteen. There are also three Catechists engaged among the Indian tribes.

The work of the Clergy has been carried on in the *towns*, the *rural districts*, the *mines*, amongst the *Indians*, and in *education*.

The congregations in the principal towns have been much increased during the past year. Country congregations are necessarily small, but early attention to the spiritual wants of our scattered agricultural population is of great importance.

The mines of Cariboo were visited, in 1861, by two of the Clergy. Last year the three principal mining towns—Antler, Richfield, and Vanwinkle, had regular Sunday Services during the greater part of the season. On our way up and down the Gospel was preached to the road-making parties, and at road stations, by three of the Clergy and myself. At times, the congregations were large.

The returns of the last year shew eleven churches, six mission chapels, and eighteen stations in the diocese, where either constant or occasional services are conducted.

EDUCATION.

The paucity of children in most parts of the diocese is the reason why but little has been done in the important matter of education.

The Clergy, however, have generally been ready to instruct the few who have been found in their several districts.

Our principal educational work is in Victoria, where the two Collegiate Schools are carried on under a staff of eight Teachers; viz., two Clergymen, three Lay Teachers and three Ladies.

There are, at the present time, sixty-one pupils in the two schools. There has been fluctuation in the attendance. We have had more, and we have had fewer than now.

The average receipts of the two schools, from payments by pupils have been £500 *per annum*. This has by no means met the expenditure, which has never been less than £1000. It now exceeds that sum.

The question has occurred whether the staff and the efficiency of the schools should be reduced to meet the income. I have decided to keep up fully the teaching power, trusting to maintain the prestige of the schools and to gain thereby the confidence of those who desire a really good and sound education for their children. In this early day of our colonies it is most necessary to preserve a good tone and standard in education. Our schools recognize the paramount importance of religious training. We do not press this upon those whose parents prefer to give to their children religious teaching at

home; but we are thankful to know that the great proportion readily accept the opportunity for their children being trained in the precepts of Heavenly Wisdom. The good fruits which will hereafter proceed from this foundation are not to be estimated by the present cost.

The Clergy engaged in the schools are also usefully occupied in Sunday ministrations. The Principal and Vice-Principal have each a ministerial district, and are ready to aid in other duties of the Church.

Besides supporting the Collegiate Schools in Victoria, we have assisted the movement for education [by erecting a Girls' School at Nanaimo, and by aiding Schools at Esquimalt and Yale.

In furtherance of education it will be useful if Institutions can be established in connection with our Church, to meet the call of young men and others for Reading Rooms and Libraries. Lectures upon religious and general subjects might be given, and classes arranged.

A quiet and rational resort would thus be provided and many would gladly spend in improvement time which is now too often wasted in idle and unprofitable pursuits.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

All efforts to educate and manage native tribes require considerable time before results of any importance can be seen.

The work of the Church of England among the Indians has been carried on in but a limited way. One devoted Clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Tugwell, has been compelled to return home through the illness of both himself and his wife.

The Victoria, Nanaimo and Fort Simpson Missions are conducted by two Clergymen and three Lay Catechists. At Mit-lah-kat-lah the Mission, under Mr. William Duncan, has been much prospered and many of the Indians have given up heathen customs and formed a Christian village. I have not been able to visit this distant spot myself,* but have been much encouraged by the accounts I have received from Captain Richards, R. N., of the Hecate, Captain Pike, R. N., of the Devastation, and Dr. Benson, all of whom visited the Mission last summer.

During each year we have had gatherings of Indians in various parts of British Columbia, and have given such instruction as the time and circumstances would allow.

* A visit was made by the Bishop shortly after [the Pastoral Address had been sent to press.

A LIST OF THE MISSIONARY BODY AT PRESENT WORKING IN THIS DIOCESE.

NAME.	PLACE.	MISSION.
The Bishop,.....	Victoria,	Victoria.
The Archdeacon,	New Westminster.....	The Camp and Sapperton.
The Rev. E. Cridge, B. A.....	Victoria,.....	Rector of Christ Church Parish.
The Rev. R. J. Dundas, M. A.,	Victoria,.....	Rector of St. John's Parish.
The Rev. C. T. Woods, M. A.,	Victoria,.....	{ Principal of the Boys' Collegiate School; Assistant Minister of St. John's, and Minister of Esquimalt.
The Rev. A. C. Garrett, B. A.	Victoria,.....	{ Principal of the Indian Mission; Assis- tant Minister of Christ Church, and Minister of Cedar Hill District.
The Rev. W. S. Reece, M. A.	Victoria,.....	{ Vice Principal of the Boys' Collegiate School, and Minister of Craig Flower District.
The Rev. R. L. Lowe, B. A.,	Saanich,.....	{ Minister of North and South Saanich, and Lake District.
The Rev. J. B. Good,.....	Nanaimo,.....	{ Minister of St. Paul's Church and the Indian Mission.
The Rev. C. Knipe, M. A.	Alberni.....	Missionary.
The Rev. J. Sheepshanks, M. A.	New Westminster,.....	Rector of Holy Trinity Parish.
The Rev. A. D. Pringle, M. A.	Hope,.....	Missionary.
The Rev. J. Gammage, ..	Douglas,.....	Missionary.
The Rev. R. L. C. Brown, M. A.	Lilloet,.....	Missionary.
The Rev. H. Reeve,.....	Yale,	Missionary.

C A T E C H I S T S .

NAME.	PLACE.	MISSION.
Mr. W. Duncan,.....	Mit-lah-kat-lah,	Fort Simpson, Indian Mission.
Mr. R. Cunningham,....	Mit-lah-kat-lah,.....	Fort Simpson, Indian Mission.
Mr. J. B. Cave,.....	Nanaimo,	Indian Mission.

FINANCES.

There are four sources from which the means are derived for maintaining this Missionary body and meeting requirements for Church-building, Schools, Endowments, &c.

	YEARLY AVERAGE.
1. The Columbia Mission	£1,700 0 0
2. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,100 0 0
3. The Church Missionary Society	300 0 0*
4. Congregational efforts	2,000 0 0

The last item includes all collections raised in the Churches, and therefore some contributions for charitable objects, as well as for the Church itself. Still it may be regarded as satisfactory, considering our infant condition, and the many calls upon our people. It is to this source we must look for increasing aid until our Church shall become self-supporting, and so need no more the fostering care of the mother land. The total sum raised through the Diocese during the last three years is £6,232, which may be regarded as the local response to the aid given us by the Societies at home.

The subject of future endowment is one I should wish to press upon the attention of our practical men. It is important at an early stage to have a good plan which, being pursued carefully from the first, may place our Church eventually in a position of independent usefulness.

Disconnected from the State, and desirous to avoid all questions of political difficulty our Church has declined the public aid that has been proffered. We are in a position, therefore, to combine a larger amount of support in her favor from all—of whatever politics—who may desire to cooperate in spreading the blessings of Christianity throughout the land, by means of the time-honored system of our British Church.

Until our full organization be complete, that is, until we can be constituted with Synodical functions as other colonial dioceses, and Bishops, Clergy and Lay delegates meet and manage the affairs of the Church in lawful assembly, it is well a *Church Society* should be formed to raise and disburse, through a Committee, funds for the various purposes of the Church.

We have taken some steps in this matter. Conferences with the Church Committees of Victoria and Westminster lead me to conclude that it is advisable to have two Societies, one for Vancouver and the

* I am not sure whether this is not an under statement.

other for Columbia. In view of an early division of the diocese, this plan will be preparatory to that event.

OBJECTS TO BE PROMOTED IN ENGLAND.

I have already informed you of my intention to visit England, and I proceed to name some of the objects to which I purpose, God willing, to direct the attention of the Mother Church.

1. MAINTENANCE OF THE CLERGY.
2. MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.
3. THE ERECTION AND FOUNDATION OF A COLLEGE, FEMALE INSTITUTION, AND ORPHANS' HOME.
4. ADDITIONAL CLERGY AND CATECHISTS.
5. DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE.

1. MAINTENANCE OF THE CLERGY.—It is known to many of you that in 1859 I interested a considerable body of friends in England to assist for five years, by annual contributions in the foundation of the Church in this diocese. Greatly indeed has this sympathy strengthened our work, for without it we could have done but little. I am anxious to lay before our more favored brethren in the Church of Christ the peculiar difficulties with which we have here to grapple, and to enlist a continued, if not an increased measure of support.

Considering the great future which may be before these rising colonies, I have a strong persuasion that the sympathies and interest of Churchmen at home will not be withheld; and that, if I am permitted in God's good providence to have a safe voyage and good health, my appeal in your behalf will not be made in vain.

2. MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.—We shall never be satisfied, I feel sure, with our work of the Church unless in this generation we make an earnest effort to bring the heathen into the fold of Christ. This at least is our duty. Notwithstanding the recent ravages of the small-pox there are many thousands awaiting the entrance among them of faithful teachers.

I trust my visit to England may be productive of greatly enlarged operations in the heathen field of these two colonies.

3. COLLEGES AND ORPHANS' HOME.—The coast of the Pacific is already the home of many families whose sons and daughters will require the best education. A College for youth and for candidates for the ministry, buildings for a Girls' College and Boarding School, and an Orphans' Home are requisite, and we must lose no time in obtaining them. Our Girls' Collegiate School occupies too limited a

space, to accommodate both day-scholars and boarders; but, I trust we may soon erect a permanent and substantial building, worthy of the interesting and important work of female education.

An Orphans' home is likely to be always in request amidst so many vicissitudes of families in these countries, and the gathering of so many far off from their friends and native land. We have already had an application to receive fatherless children; but, to our much sorrow, were compelled to refuse.

4. ADDITIONAL CLERGY.—For the increased work among the heathen, we shall need additional Clergy and Catechists. Comax Cowichan, Alberni, Richfield, Van Winkle, Kamloops, probably Peace River and Stekin, besides itinerating Missions, should each have its stated Minister. Thus a considerable addition to the present body is necessary. To obtain this addition is by no means easy, even were the means of support provided. In England the supply is not sufficient for the home requirements—still I must make the endeavor to meet our wants, and may the Lord of the Harvest raise up and send forth amongst us true-hearted laborers.

5. DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE.—The remaining subject is that of the Division of the Diocese. I propose to bring this before the notice of those in authority whose approval will be necessary before any step can be taken. The Bishop should be able personally to visit, each year, every Cure in his Diocese. There are places to which I have never yet been able to go. The increased area of mining ground, and the enterprise and excitement that exist for a considerable period of the year in the upper country, demand the close attention of the Bishop. To give this and visit other portions of the Diocese is impossible. My opinion is, the diocese should be divided into three, and at no distant day, into four.

Judging from past instances we may expect that the extension of the Church's system, by new Dioceses, will both tend to permanently her institutions, and give increased impetus and efficiency to her holy work. One difficulty to be surmounted is the necessity of a sufficient endowment. With so many other objects in view it may not be possible, at the present, fully to accomplish this plan of division.

I have now briefly dwelt upon the various points of interest, both as to our present position and as to what I hope to accomplish, through the help of God, during my proposed visit to England.

Let us feel the importance of earnest efforts in this our time, to plant well the Vine of God's Church, that its spreadings, in days to come, may give refreshment and shelter to future generations.

We are encouraged by the promise of our Lord, when he gave the command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel and baptize

all nations, that He would be present always by His Spirit. We are fellow laborers with God. Paul may plant, Apollos water, but God giveth the increase.

Nor must we be disheartened by difficulties and disappointments. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we must do it with our might and leave the event to God. Though after many days the bread cast upon the waters will surely be found. One soweth, another reapeth, yet the sowers and reapers are one day to rejoice together.

May the God of Peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.—Heb. xiii. 20.

Commending you to the blessing and Grace of God,

I remain,

My dear Friends and Brethren,

Your faithful friend and servant,

G. COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA, March 26, 1863.